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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Zanzibar: President Karume's demand that the NASA space tracking station be removed by 1 May is the latest step in the regime's effort to eliminate all Western presence from the island.

An American official's statement to the New York press pointing out the threat that Zanzibar poses to mainland East Africa was the pretext for the action. Actually, members of the present government have been agitating for several years for the station's removal.

Foreign Minister Babu still appears to be in control, despite minor differences developing within the regime's pro-Communist phalanx. His well-placed lieutenants and network of informers should be able to neutralize any serious opposition.

The leadership of the new army is dominated by Communist-trained extremists loyal to Babu. Construction of a military base about four miles south of Zanzibar town is receiving high priority, and part of the Soviet arms shipment has been moved there. The Army's nucleus--about 500 men--is starting training under Soviet instructors.

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India: [High-level sessions of the Indian Communist Party opening tomorrow may produce a formal party split along "left-right" lines]

[So-called "left" and "right" factions of the Indian party have been at odds for years. In the past few weeks, however, anti-Soviet "left" elements have united in a vigorous effort to oust party chairman S. A. Dange, a long-time "rightist" labor leader.]

[The "leftists" have seized upon a recently discovered letter, allegedly written by Dange while in prison in 1924, offering to work for the British security service.]

[The "leftists" are threatening to leave the party if their effort fails, while Dange has proposed disciplinary action--including expulsion of five leaders--against them. Dange's harder line may have been encouraged by Moscow, whence he has just returned to India.]

[Soviet pronouncements in the past week opening a new counteroffensive against Peiping suggest that Moscow has decided to urge pro-Soviet foreign Communist leaders to expel pro-Chinese "renegades and splitters" from their parties]

[A 6 April Pravda article by the leader of the pro-Soviet Ceylonese Communist Party claimed that his party "has become stronger by cleansing itself of the opportunist and venal elements."]

[India's Communists have a long history of blurring their divisions and avoiding irrevocable schisms, but they will be hard put to find a basis for compromise this time.]

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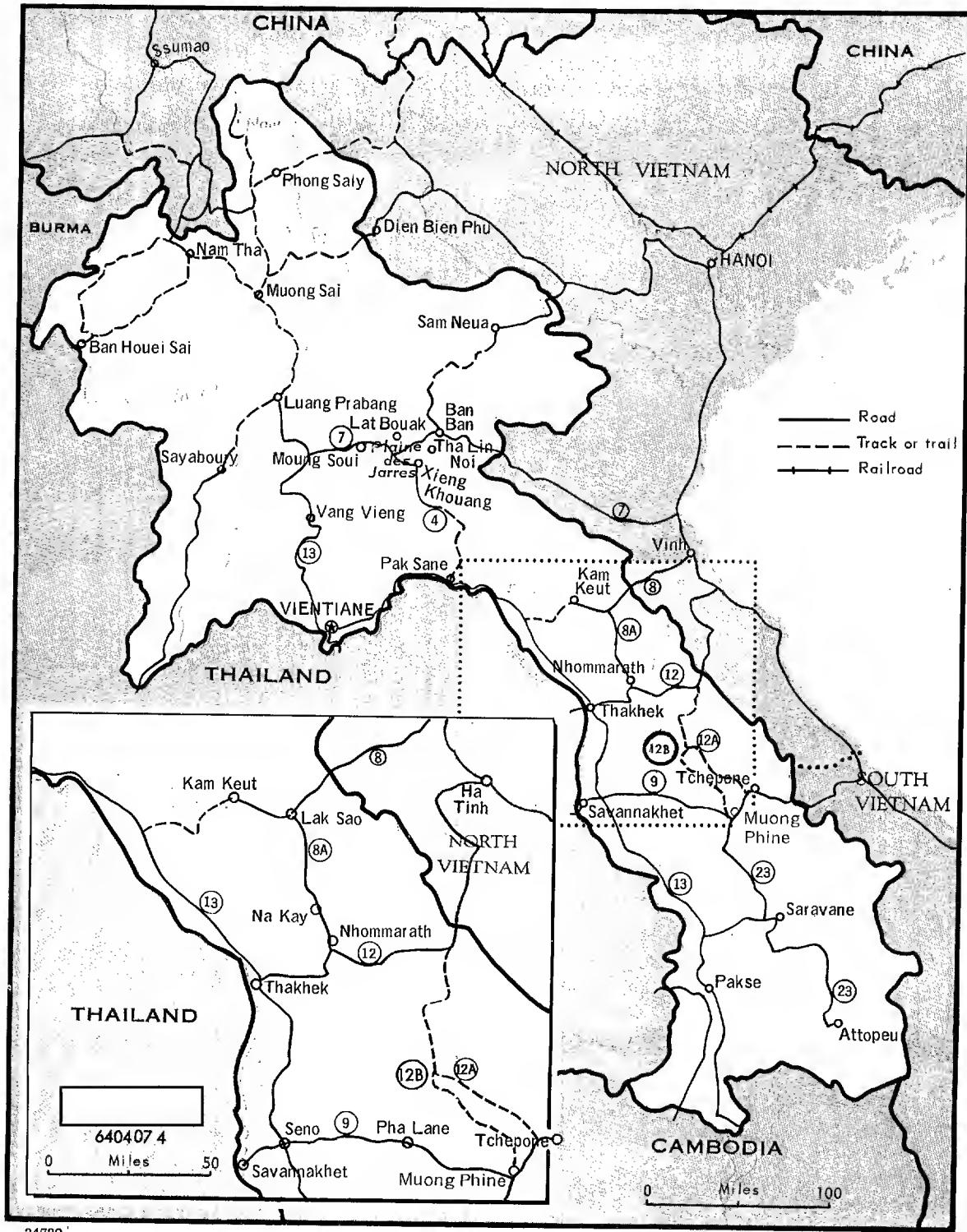
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If they do split, Dange's group will probably retain control of the party organs, but the CPI will lose some of its more dynamic elements. A formal split also would probably result in the formation of a rival party favoring the Chinese Communists' ideological position.

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LAOS



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NOTES

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Laos: The Communists appear to have deployed a sizable concentration of troops into southern Laos during March. [redacted] have reported the movement of an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 men--many identified as North Vietnamese--from the region east of Thakhek southeast to the Muong Phine area. This area serves as a base for Communist operations in the southern Laos - South Vietnam border region

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Britain-Cuba: British shipowner Basil Mavroleon has asked the US to consider his January undertaking to withdraw his ships from the Cuban trade "suspended" because of the continuing US longshoremen's boycott of one of his ships, despite its removal from the US blacklist. He says, however, that he will hold off temporarily pending further efforts to end the boycott. The embassy reports that several other shipowners would probably withdraw their ships from the Cuban trade except for the boycott.

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*Dominican Republic: The status of triumvirate member Ramon Tapia, currently under pressure to resign, remains uncertain.

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[redacted] Tapia on 6 April reneged on an earlier promise to step down and tried unsuccessfully to commandeer military backing in order to remain in office. Tapia's resignation, however, appears likely to be forthcoming shortly. His colleagues are already under heavy political pressure regarding the choice of his successor.

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DAILY BRIEF

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